

Annapolis, Maryland, March 27th, 1907.

The Board of Public Works met, this day, at noon, in the office of the Governor in conference with the Shell Fish Commissioners.

Present of the Board of Public Works: Governor Warfield, Comptroller Atkinson and Treasurer Vandiver.

Of the Shell Fish Commission: President Mitchell and Dr. Graves.

President Mitchell called attention to Section 97 of Chapter 711 of the Acts of 1906, which provides that one of the State Steamers shall be kept in commission for the use of the Shell Fish Commission from April 1st, to October 1st, of each year, and discussed with the Board as to whom the law contemplates should bear the expense of this boat while under their control and direction, whereupon it was decided that the State should bear all expenses except for a cook and deck hands. Treasurer Vandiver offering the following resolution:

Resolved that the Secretary of the Board be directed to instruct Commander Howard of the State Fishery Force to place at the disposal of the Board of Shell Fish Commissioners the State Steamer "Governor McLane" and that the same be manned by a captain, mate, engineer and assistant, two firemen, and to furnish coal and equipments for the same, at the expense of the State in pursuance of Section 97 of Chapter 711 of the Acts of 1906. Seconded and carried.

Section 119 of the law provides that the Board of Shell Fish Commissioners shall annually prepare a full report and publish same in pamphlet form, of its transactions and operations and an account of the receipts and disbursements thereof, and it was decided that this report should be made to the Governor at the end of the fiscal year, on September 30th, thereby making the first report consume a period of about one year and five months, - the Commission having begun its operations sometime in May, 1906. It was decided that these reports be paid for by the Shell Fish Commission out of its funds.

Mr. Mitchell submitted a statement of the expenses of the Commission, from May 10th, 1906 to March 26th, 1907, and called

attention to the different items thereof. He laid particular stress upon the enormous expense of fitting out the houseboat, the "Oyster", and the Governor suggested that the Commission file an itemized inventory of all the property on this Boat belonging to the State so that the same might be embodied in the Minutes of the Board of Public Works.

Dr. Grave inquired whether the report required to be made by the Coast and Geodetic Survey should be embodied in the report of the Shell Fish Commission and it was decided that such report be made separate. It was further decided that a supplemental report be made by the Shell Fish Commission during the month of December for submission to the General Assembly. In all cases, the cost of these reports to be paid for by the Shell Fish Commission out of the \$25,000 appropriation.

Mr. Mitchell then called attention to the recent depredations upon the triangulation stations and the buoys in the waters of Anne Arundel County, whereon the following resolution was offered by Treasurer Vandiver:

Resolved that Captain Howard be directed to instruct the Deputy Commander of the "May Brown" and the Deputy Commander of the "Daisy Archer" to patrol the waters of Anne Arundel County where surveys have been made by the Board of Shell Fish Commissioners and to watch for any violators of the law and to apprehend the same and bring them to trial. Seconded and carried.

The Governor brought before the Board the matter of the renting of Pier 8, Light Street Wharf, Baltimore, and the following resolution was offered:

Resolved, That Pier 8, Light Street Wharf, Baltimore, be leased to the Maryland, Delaware and Virginia R. R. Co., from May 1st, 1907 for one year at and for the sum of two thousand dollars, and that the Secretary of the Board be authorized to have the lease prepared." Seconded and carried.

The Secretary was also instructed to obtain a copy of the original lease.

The Governor presented the following letters from Mr. Willard Thomson to Mr. A. T. Robinson and also copy of a letter from Nicholas P. Bond:

Baltimore, February 1st, 1907.

Mr. A. T. Robinson,

Chief Inspector, State Warehouse No. 5,

Baltimore, Maryland.

Dear Sir:

I have a letter from our counsel on the question of lease of tobacco warehouse wharf belonging to the State of Maryland and under the control of the Board of Public Works, and he is of the opinion that we are a yearly tenant and that the year expires in May, and that we are entitled to the wharf under our present lease until the end of that period. Therefore, I think it right and proper that we should be allowed the use of that property until the expiration of the year -- May, 1907,--and after that be subject to the increase of \$1000. a year, making a total of \$2000. per year.

In making that lease I would be glad if you would have the alley which you say the State owns, and the front of which we are entitled to under the lease, embodied in the lease giving the entire water front.

For your information on the subject I enclose herewith a copy of Mr. Bond's letter.

Yours truly,

(Signed) Willard Thomson.

Vice President and General Manager.

Baltimore, January 26th, 1907.

Willard Thomson, Esq.,  
Vice President and General Manager,  
Maryland, Delaware & Virginia Railway Company,  
Baltimore, Maryland.

Dear Sir:

Yours of the 10th, inst., at hand, with regard to the lease of Pier 8. I understand the facts with regard to this lease to be as follows:

Under the Acts of 1890, Chapter 119, the Board of Public Works was authorized to lease this wharf for a period or periods of time not exceeding in all the period of ten years; that a lease was made in compliance with this Act to Henry Williams for the term of two years from the first day of May, 1890, for the sum of One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.) a year, payable in equal half-yearly instalments. This lease expired and Mr. Williams continued to occupy the property, paying the rent therefor. This lease was assigned to your Company, but since the assignment of your Company has continued to occupy the premises and you have paid the rent at the periods mentioned in the lease.

Notwithstanding the terms of the Act of 1890, I am of the opinion that your Company is a yearly tenant for the year beginning May 1906 and expiring May 1907. Under these circumstances, I

do not think the Board of Public Works has the right to charge you rent at the rate of two thousand dollars (\$2,000.) per year, dating from December last.

I herewith return the two leases with two leases with regard to this property.

Very truly yours,

(signed) Nicholas P. Bond,

Special Solicitor.

The bills of Minch and Eisenbrey for carpets &c., for the Board of Public Works office in Baltimore was ordered paid out of the contingent fund of the Board.

The Governor submitted the following letter:

Baltimore, December 18, 1907.

To His Excellency,  
Edwin Warfield,  
Governor of Maryland.

Dear Sir:

My predecessor in office, Judge Duncan, in his report to you in June, 1905, called attention to the fact that under the law creating the office of State Auditor, the Insurance Department, is not included in the public offices he is required to investigate and recommended the passage of a law adding this Department to the list of those subject to the Auditor's examination. At the Department's request in 1905, Mr. Ash made an examination of the books and vouchers here, and I have requested him this year to do the same, but he states in a letter to me that it will be necessary for the Board of Public Works to authorize him to take such action. I therefore request that you will make arrangements for having authority given to him to make such an examination.

Yours very truly,

Benj. F. Crouse, State Insurance Commissioner.

whereupon it was ordered that Mr. Ash, the State Auditor, be instructed to examine the accounts of the State Insurance Commissioner's office as requested, and report same to the Board of Public Works.

The Governor informed the Board that he had asked for bids for excavating, grading and laying cement walks about the State House and that he had received the following:

George Jewell, -----	\$789.
Wm. E. Feldmeyer, -----	792.
Thos. McGuckian & Son ----	749. whereby he had

awarded the contract to Thomas McGuckian & Son, which was approved by the Board.

Messrs. McGuckian & Son were the only bidders for doing the coping, &c., around the grounds, his bid being \$718. and was awarded the contract for the same, which was also approved by the Board. There being no further business the Board adjourned at 1:30 p. m.

*Orval Tilghman*  
Secretary